

LONG ISLAND MARITIME MUSEUM
Baymen's Oral History Group
• John Tucker •

LIMM Research Associate John Kochiss recorded this interview with Mr. Tucker on 03 August 1977.



Orien Hulse aboard his workboat, Edna H. Hulse, which he had named after his eldest daughter.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Lucille (Hulse) Wicks.

John Tucker, in 1978 just prior to his 80th birthday, shown near his home on Green's Creek in West Sayville. He had retired from working the bay in the 1960's.



In the early 1940's, John Tucker is shown aboard his oyster boat, Jennie Ockers. Unlike many of the area's oystermen, Tucker did not spend the off-months overhauling his boat or mending equipment. Instead, he spent the summers clamming.

TAPE: John Tucker Life on the Bay

Contents:

- Types of boats used: skiffs, sharpies, etc. (0:00-4:00).
- Types of fishing: conch, eel, gill netting, etc. (4:00-19:00).
- Boat cabins: summer vs. winter (19:00-22:00).
- Boat rudders and tillers; work boats and catboats (22:00-30:00).
- Oystering, tonging and storage on boats (30:00-32:00).
- Crabbing (32:00-36:00).
- Pollution on the Great South Bay; eeling (36:00-39:00).
- Other types of fishing (39:00-43:00).
- Vessels bound for New York City (43:00-45:00).

All times are approximate indications of subject/topic areas.



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LIMM Research Associate John Kochiss recorded this interview with Mr. Tucker on 03 August 1977. In it, he describes life as a bayman in the West Sayville area.

TAPE: John Tucker, Baymen's Activities

Contents:

- Activities on the oyster boat "Still," owned by William Rudolph and run by Mr. Tucker's father (0:00-15:00).
- The influence of the Long Island Railroad on the oyster industry (15:00-18:00).
- A bayman's life; various jobs in an oyster house (18:00-26:00).
- Tonging oysters through the ice (26:00-28:00).

All times are approximate indications of subject/topic areas.



*Clockwise,
 from upper left:
 Tonging for oysters;
 oyster barrels labelled
 for shipping;
 loaded wagon en
 route to railroad
 station; tonging for
 oysters in winter;
 culling oysters.*